There was a suggestion that the post of the Sanketham Tahsildar should be abolished and the work entrusted to the local Tahsildar. Already the work of the Tahsildar of the taluk is very heavy and it will not be possible to entrust him with this work also.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai was saying that in the case of some of the old registries where lands were registered on the basis of eye sketches the excess area is not being registered. The instructions issued recently by Government apply more to the unauthorised encroachments on Government lands and cases such as those mentioned by the honourable member will be sympathetically considered by Government.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 8,21,670 under Demand II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income was put to vote and carried.

The Demand was passed and grant was made.

DEMAND III—STAMPS.

Mr. R. Rama Varier: Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 70,969 under Demand III - Stamps.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, I oppose the Demand. My idea is to bring home to the Government the fact that the Stamps are not available in sufficient quantities in the rural areas of the State. Stamps are being sold through certain licensees called Vendors. These Vendors do the business expecting some sort of remuneration or commission for the sale of the Stamps. So it cannot be expected that there will be very large sales in rural areas or that there will be vendors in each and every village. Now that we have got sufficient number of Anchal Offices conducting savings bank accounts, will it not be convenient if these Anchal Masters are entrusted with the sale of these stamps and stamp papers also just as the Treasury Officers are empowered to sell the stamp papers. If such an arrangement is made I think there will be greater facilities for the village people to purchase the stamps. Now on account of the fact that no stamps are available in village areas, people manage to execute the documents without stamps. When these documents happen to go to courts, the parties will have to pay penalty. In the case of many, they do not go to courts at all.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Does the honourable member think that these Anchal Masters should be entrusted with these very valuable stamp papers?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasvia Aiyar: They are Government servants and have deposited certain amount as security. So they can be given papers just to cover their security amount.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know the value of the stamp papers up to which Anchal Masters could be entrusted?

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Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Rs. 500, 1000, or 2000 as the case may be.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know whether they are to be given any commission?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: They will get the usual commission that a Vendor will get. In rural areas the Anchal Masters have got only very little work to do. Therefore there is absolutely no harm in their being asked to take up this work also. If such an arrangement is made, I do not think the people will violate the law of the land. Now the people get documents executed without using stamps because they are not available.

Mr. R. Rama Varier: Suppose these valuable papers are entrusted to the rural Anchal Masters on their security, how much value of papers could be entrusted to them?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Now the Anchal Masters have given security for the posts they hold. The value of the Stamp Papers and Stamps which may be entrusted to them will depend upon the security they have deposited.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether any additional security is to be made by the Anchal Masters for selling the Stamp Papers?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Yes, if they want to become Vendors and if security is insufficient. It will be a very great help to the people in the rural areas.

Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy: May I know whether the member proposing that these Anchal Masters should be entrusted with the sale of Anchal Stamps or the Revenue Stamps?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: So far as the Anchal Stamps are concerned they are even now entrusted with their sale. What I was saying is that they should be empowered to sell Revenue Stamps.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Is it the suggestion of the honourable member to abolish the present system of selling Anchal Stamps or side by side with that to entrust the Anchal Masters with the sale of Revenue Stamps?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: In addition to the present system, the Anchal Masters should be empowered to sell the Revenue Stamps.

Another matter which I want to bring to the attention of Government is with regard to the size of stamps. Suppose I want to present a petition to Government and for that a stamp to the value of Rs. 2 or Rs. 4 will have to be affixed. By affixing the present stamps half the space of the writing paper will be wasted. Why not we use stamps of smaller sizes. The price of paper is very dear now. Government also will save a lot of money if stamps of a smaller diamension are used. So I would suggest that Government

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should go into the question as to whether it is not advisable to have smaller stamps. This morning in answer to an interpellation regarding one anna stamp, the member in charge replied that it is not possible to change the present size of the one anna stamp.

The reason that the Accountant-General gave for not doing this was that the types were recently made at some cost. Of course, types may not be very costly. But if we make another set of types to suit smaller stamps I think the smaller size of the paper and the cost of the glue placed over it will readily compensate for the loss to be incurred by going for another set of types. Sir, I am at a loss to understand why we cannot have a better stamp and a nicely looking one. So much so I would suggest that as an improvement.

Another suggestion I have to make is with regard to the matter of purchasing one anna stamp. As a matter of fact the rural people have to pay 2 chuckrams for an one anna stamp. There is absolutely no objection in making it to cost 2 chuckrams than to have one and three fourth chuckrams. Let it be valued at the Travancore Currency. Instead of one anna let us call it two chuckrams or one and a half chuckrams stamp.

Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy: Sir, I do not know whether Government have issued orders to the Anchal Offices to sell stamps only after 12. But I find, especially in the mofussil parts, that Anchal Offices sell stamps only after 12. So it is quite unjust on their part to keep the people who go to those Anchal Offices to buy stamps waiting there till 12 O' clock.

President: Is there any such rule ?

Mr. R. Rama Varier: No Sir. The Anchal Offices sell stamps from morning 7 to evening 6.

Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy: But in Quilon, Sir, we get stamps from these Anchal Offices only after 12 O' clock.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, I also endorse the suggestions made by Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar that, by reducing the size of the stamps we can save paper, dye and glue. Mr. Kaderbhoy said that the Anchal Offices generally sell stamps only after 12 O' clock. Sir, that is true with regard to the Anchal offices in the rural parts. But in the city, stamps are sold from 7 in the morning to 6 in the evening.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: ആലപ്പുഴ അഞ്ചൽഫീസിൽ രാവിലെ സ്റ്റാമ്പുകൾ കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്ന് മെമ്പർക്കു അറിയാമോ?

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Mr. K. M. Kesavan : If that be so, that simply strengthens my view. Therefore, Sir, I submit that the time for selling the stamps may be extended from 7 o' clock in the morning to 6 in the evening in all Anchal Offices. For this, additional allowance may be paid to the men entrusted with the business.

Mr R. Rama Varier : അഞ്ചൽ ശിപായിമാരുടെ കൈയ്യിൽ സ്റ്റാമ്പുകളും മറ്റും വിൽക്കാനായി ഏൽപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ ഇഷ്ട മുള്ളവർക്കു ഡെലിവറി പ്യൂൺസിന്റെ കൈയ്യിൽനിന്നും സ്റ്റാമ്പുകൾ വാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുകയില്ലേ?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : അങ്ങനെ ഒരു ഏർപ്പാടു വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ശരിതന്നെ. പക്ഷെ അവര പലപ്പോഴും സ്റ്റാമ്പു കൊണ്ടുപോകുകയോ വിൽക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഈ സ്റ്റാമ്പുകളും മറ്റും അഞ്ചൽ ശിപായിമാർ പള്ളിക്കൂടം പിള്ളേരെ മാത്രമേ ഏൽപ്പിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ എന്നു് അറിയാമോ?

Mr. R. Rama Varier : അതു് ഇപ്പോൾ പുതുതായി കേൾക്കുകയാണു്. പക്ഷെ ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം "അഞ്ചലിൽ" വരേണ്ടതാണു്. അല്ലാതെ "സ്റ്റാമ്പിൽ" വരേണ്ടതല്ല.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : Yes, Sir. But we are now speaking of revenue stamps and not Anchal stamps. A new suggestion was made in the House that these stamps should be sold through Anchal Offices. I think it is worth a trial and if found useful it may be made permanent and the old system may be abolished.

Mr. R. Rama Varier : Sir, the idea of entrusting the sale of receipt stamps and stamp papers to the local Anchal Masters is a question requiring serious consideration. The Anchal Superintendent, the Division Peishkars and other officers will have to be consulted before making that innovation.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : Does the honourable member know that this suggestion was placed before the House on previous occasions?

Mr. R. Rama Varier : I am not aware of that.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know whether the member is aware that in British India revenue stamps and postal stamps are sold by Post Offices?

Mr. R. Rama Varier : They have changed that policy from 1935. They have now got separate stamps also for Revenue and Post.

The question that Government be granted Rs. 70,969 under Demand III—Stamps was put to vote and carried,

The grant was made.

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